

6. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies an episode of a television series included in the video signal.

B1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television series corresponding to the video signal.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network affiliate providing the video signal.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network providing the video signal.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 which further comprises the steps

of:

B2 determining an identifying characteristic of the video signal; and  
defining a user interface for display of the text communications, the user interface being configured to reflect the identifying characteristic of the video signal.

23. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television series episode.

B3 24. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television series.

25. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television network affiliate which broadcasts the video program.

26. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television network which broadcasts the video program.

Please add new claims 58-91, as follows:

58. (New) In a client system comprising a display for simultaneously showing video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication corresponding to the received video programs, wherein the client system is capable of connecting to one or more host servers of one or more service providers and one or more chat servers offering one or more chat rooms, a method of a service provider controlling a client system's access to one or more chat rooms that have been associated with a particular video program, comprising:

at the client system, receiving a video program from a video source;

displaying the video program at the client system;

receiving chat link data from the service provider indicating that the client system may display a chat link for connecting to a chat room associated with the video program;

based on the chat link data received from the service provider, displaying the chat link simultaneously with the video program;

sending a chat request to a host server upon selection of the chat link;

receiving a chat room identifier from the host server that identifies the available chat room associated with the video program and a chat server; and

automatically connecting the client system with the chat room that is associated with the video program using the chat room identifier received from the host server.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the host and chat servers are the same server.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the video program and the chat link data are received in a signal broadcast from the video source.

61. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the video program is displayed in a video region of the display and text communications are displayed in a chat region of the display.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the chat region of the display is adjacent the video region of the display.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the chat region of the display overlies the video region of the display.

64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein a chat user interface displayed in the chat region is customized based on one or more of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, and (iv) a network providing the video program.

65. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein an identifying characteristic of the video program is displayed outside of the video region of the display.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies an episode of a television series included in the video program.

67. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television series corresponding to the video program.

68. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network affiliate providing the video program.

69. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network providing the video program.

70. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic includes a background underlying other displayed data.

71. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising the steps of:  
determining an identifying characteristic of the video program; and  
defining a user interface for display of text communications, the user interface being configured to reflect an identifying characteristic of the video program.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the user interface includes a predefined chat region for display of the text communications.

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73. (New) For a client system comprising a display for simultaneously showing video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication corresponding to the received video programs, wherein the client system is capable of connecting to one or more host servers of one or more service providers and one or more chat servers offering one or more chat rooms, a computer program product comprising computer-executable instructions for implementing a method of a service provider controlling a client system's access to one or more chat rooms that have been associated with a particular video program, the method comprising:

at the client system, receiving a video program from a video source;

displaying the video program at the client system;

receiving chat link data from the service provider indicating that the client system may display a chat link for connecting to a chat room associated with the video program;

based on the chat link data received from the service provider, displaying the chat link simultaneously with the video program;

sending a chat request to a host server upon selection of the chat link;

receiving a chat room identifier from the host server that identifies the available chat room associated with the video program and a chat server; and

automatically connecting the client system with the chat room that is associated with the video program using the chat room identifier received from the host server.

74. (New) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the host and chat servers are the same server.

75. (New) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the video program and the chat link data are received in a signal broadcast from the video source.

76. (New) The computer program product of claim 73, the method further comprising displaying the video program in a video region of the display and text communications in a chat region of the display.

77. (New) The computer program product of claim 76, wherein the chat region of the display is adjacent the video region of the display.

78. (New) The computer program product of claim 76, wherein the chat region of the display overlies the video region of the display.

79. (New) The computer program product of claim 76, wherein an identifying characteristic of the video program is displayed outside of the video region of the display.

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80. (New) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies an episode of a television series included in the video program.

81. (New) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television series corresponding to the video program.

82. (New) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network affiliate providing the video program.

83. (New) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network providing the video program.

84. (New) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic includes a background underlying other displayed data.

85. (New) The computer program product of claim 73, the method further comprising:

determining an identifying characteristic of the video program; and  
defining a user interface for display of text communications, the user interface being configured to reflect the identifying characteristic of the video program.

86. (New) The computer program product of claim 85, wherein the user interface includes a predefined chat region for display of the text communications.

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87. (New) The computer program product of claim 86, wherein the user interface includes a predefined video region for display of the video program.

88. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the chat region of the display is adjacent the video region of the display.

89. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the chat region of the display overlies the video region of the display.

90. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 27, wherein the chat region of the display is adjacent the video region of the display.

91. (New) The graphical user interface of claim 27, wherein the chat region of the display overlies the video region of the display.